

Minutes of the Dec 11, 2008 HP/FH Committee Special Meeting

Attendance

Present:

Ellen Kosmer (EK), Flo Stern (FS), Claude Tellier (CT), Nancy Gregg (NG) Chair
Walter Wolnik (WW), Chris Hoffmann (CH) Recording Secretary, Roy Rosenblatt (RR) Staff, Larry Shaffer (Town Manager)

Absent:

Jean Haggerty (JH)

Others

Carol Gray

Actions:

Called to order at 9:15am.

Approved unanimously: The HP/FH Committee recommends that the Select Board not exercise its right of first refusal on the parcel of land being sold by Cinda Jones.
(WW/EK)

Discussion:

Strawberry Fields: Carol Gray told the committee that she was exploring the possibility of finding a way to purchase the land on South East Street where the Strawberry Fields development has been planned and was meeting with committees who might be involved in such a purchase, such as HP/FH and Conservation. The proposal would put three units on the property – one affordable for low income, one for moderate income, and one sold at market rates. She promised to send the committee more information by email.

Henry Street: The committee discussed the property owned by Cinda Jones on Henry Street and agreed that we had no interest in having the town try to purchase the land and will be interested in seeing how her plans to develop worker-affordable housing on the property turns out. The committee approved a resolution officially recommending that the SB not exercise right of first refusal (see above).

Olympia Drive: Larry Shaffer (Town Manager) confirmed that there did not appear to be any reason we could not hire an architect to develop plans without going through a bidding process. Though no official vote was taken, no one in attendance expressed any objections to exploring this as a way to make the project more attractive to bidders.

MAHT: The committee discussed with Larry how we plan to address bringing up the MAHT at Town Meeting in the spring, including having information about how MAHTs have been instituted and run in other towns (see tasks below). In addition he said we will have the town counsel present for the next vote.

Miscellaneous Town News: Roy Rosenblatt said that Community Development Block Grant money would be sought for improving South Amherst Center sidewalks. Also, the Master Plan is still collecting public comments. Finally, he was organizing a meeting of faith-based organizations to discuss ways of addressing homelessness in the town.

Tasks:

Members should contact the towns assigned and ask the following questions about MAHT:

1. Who is on the board?
2. Does it use CPA funds, and if so how?
3. Do they have examples how the ability to accumulate funds has been useful?
4. Have there been any problems with liability?
5. Were there problems getting the MAHT approved?

Next meeting:

Jan 15, 2009 at 9am @ Town Hall

Adjournment

Voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:23. FS/WW

Submitted By

Chris Hoffmann